THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. The air routes have been categorized into three categories. 12 routes connecting metro-stations directly and having maximum air traffic are categorized as Category-I routes. Routes connecting stations in North East region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep are categorized as Category-II. Routes other than those in Category-I and Category-II are categorized as Category-III.

Any airline which operates scheduled air transport service on one or more of the routes under Category-I, shall be required to provide such service in Categories-II and III as indicated below:—

The operator will deploy on routes in Category-II at least 10% of the capacity he deploys on routes in Category-I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

The operator will deploy routes in Category-III, at least 50% of the capacity deployed on routes in Category-I.

(c) and (d) It is however up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending on traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country, subject to compliance of the route dispersal guidelines.

Audit of Airports Authority of India

1356. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular aerodrome audits of Airports Authority of India certifying preparedness levels are done by International Civil Aviation Organisation;

(b) if so, the details of last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) does not carry out the aerodrome audit of the member states. However, a comprehensive system approach under Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme is to be carried out as agreed in the 35th Assembly Session in September-October, 2004 for safety audit of Member states every six years. The first such audit for India is scheduled to take place in October, 2006.

(c) Does not arise.

Transfer of assets of Nagpur Airport

1357. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering transfer of assets of Nagpur Airport to State Government of Maharashtra at nominal cost in lieu of waiver of stamp duty and other taxes applicable to the modernisation of Mumbai Airport; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, outlining the value of assets of Nagpur Airport and estimated amount of tax exemption, offered by State Government of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The development and modernization of airports is a continuous process depending upon traffic demand, availability of resources, land etc. Development work is undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) generally from its own resources. However, for some airports, AAI undertakes development works through signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with State Governments. As regards transfer of assets of Nagpur Airport the decision is to resolve the matter through inter-Governmental, inter-Ministerial and intra-Ministerial consultations.